Setting up of second gas terminal at USSR

5528. DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRI V. N. GADGIL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for setting up of a second gas terminal at Usar in Raigad district and also allocation of additional 30 million cubic meters gas per day for that State; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra have proposed the setting up of a new gas terminal at Usar and higher allocation of gas to units in Maharashtra. However, the gas projected to be available from the Western Offshore fields is fully allocated and it is not feasible to consider higher allocations at present.

Research work for Petroleum and Natural Gas in Gujarat

5529. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in Gujarat where research work for petroleum and natural gas resources is going on; and

(b) the achievement made during the research by Government in the State, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT SATISH SHARMA): (a) The Institute of Reservoir studies, ONGC is carrying out research and development studies for enhancement of oil and gas recovery from fields in general including Balol, Lanwa, Sanand, Jhalora. Santhal Bechraji and Gandhar in Gujarat.

(b) The studies are of continuous nature. The research carried out on the enhanced oil recovery methods has resulted in field implementation of new methods like ploymer flooding and insitu combustion and application of profile modification treatments in the high water out wells and a host of other benefits.

Stock of lead-free petrol

5530. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the stock of unleaded petrol with the oil companies at the end of March, 1995 in four metrololitan cities;

(b) the off-take estimated by the oil companies as a result of the decision to introduce unleaded petrol in market since 1st April, 1995;

(c) the actual off-take of the unleaded petrol during April, 1995;

(d) whether poor sales of unleaded petrol have led to the formation of dead stocks with petroleum dealers and distributors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and losses suffered by the distributors on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The stock of unleaded petrol with the oil companies in four metro cities at the end of March, 1995 was as under:

Delhi	1317kl
Bombay	1080kl
Calcutta	2166kl
Madras	243kl

(b) and (c) The estimated and actual off-take of unleaded petrol in the four metropolitan cities during April, 1995 is as under:

	Estimated	Actual
Delhi	202kl	166.0kl
Bombay	140kl	27.0kl
Calcutta	101kl	5.5kl
Madras	54kl	25.7kl

(d) and (e) The quantity sold depends upon requirement of fuel for the new cars fitted with catalytic converters. Hence it is too early to make a realistic assessment as unleaded petrol has been introduced only from 1-4-95.

Joint venture company with Iran

5531. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

((a) whether it is a fact that India and Iran have agreed to set up a joint venture company of exploration and production of oil and gas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a memorandum of understanding has been signed by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the National Iran Oil Company for the purpose; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. and National Iranian Oil Company for the formation of a Joint Venture with the objective of seeking global opportunities for exploration, development and services in oil and gas sectors.

Introduction of credit card system by the oil companies

5532. SHRI VIRRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there any proposal by the oil companies to indroduce Credit Card system:

(b) if so, what are its main features;

(c) in how many cities it is being introduced; and

(d) the reaction of the petrol pumps owners and the general public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Credit Card system has initially been introduced by the IOC in Delhi, Jaipur, Calcutta, Howrah, Jamshedpur, Bombay, Baroda, Ahmedabad, Poona, Madras, Bangalore, Secunderabad, Coimbatore, Maduari, Cochin, Trichy and Mangalore.

The credit Card system is scheduled to be introduced by the BPCL and the HPCL also in a few selected cities.

Credit card holders will be able to uplift fuel/other requirements at retail outlets and pay of the services against credit cards. The cards will help the dealers in reducing cash transactions and overnight cash holdings, which is risky. Also carrping large sums of money by customers for puchase of fuel would get reduced. Besides that, credit card system will do away with the cumbersome documentation at ROs where